



Douglas A. Herling
President & CEO

May 1, 2019

The Honorable Deane Rykerson
State of Maine Legislature
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Rep. Rykerson:

Thank you for your continued interest in the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC). As you know, the project will lower electric rates for Mainers, enhance electric reliability for the region and lower green house gas emissions through the expanded use of hydroelectricity in the region.

Nevertheless, all of us at Central Maine Power take seriously concerns related to the impacts of the construction and operation of the transmission facilities on Maine and its citizens.

You have asked us to consider not using herbicides on the 53 miles of new right of way west and north of Moxie Gore to the Quebec border (i.e. Segment 1 in the project terminology). Please know, we remain confident that the use of herbicides — carefully, appropriately, and within state guidelines — is an effective means of vegetation control. Nevertheless, after careful consideration of your request, we hereby commit to you, the full Legislature and the citizens of Maine that the project company will NOT use herbicides on the 53 miles of new right of way for NECEC during its construction or operation.

We will use the experience on the NECEC in this new right of way as part of a multi-year evaluation within CMP of vegetation control on all of our rights of way. Simultaneously with this letter, I have directed CMP personnel to study and report back to me on our current uses of herbicides in all our operations and possible alternatives that are cost effective and advance environmental goals. We must carefully balance the costs and benefits on our other rights of way as any additional prudently incurred costs for existing facilities (not NECEC) will be borne by our customers. We will ascertain in the future if further reductions in the use of herbicides comport with our efforts to protect our customers' interests and support our on-going objective of continuous improvement on environmental responsibility. Mechanical vegetation management raises other implications that we will carefully evaluate in the context of our overall efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and operate our business in as sustainable a manner as prudently possible.

Thank you again for your interest in NECEC and for your continued public service.

Sincerely,

Doug Herling
President & CEO

CC: Members of Maine Legislature

